

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W
----- 094470

R 280759Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6137

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI CH

SUBJECT: PLA OFFICERS ATTITUDE CRITICIZED

1. THERE APPEARS TO BE A HINT THAT THE DICTATORSHIP CAMPAIGN IS REACHING OUT TOWARD THE PLA AS TWO RECENT BROADCASTS FROM PROVINCES IN THE CANTON MILITARY REGION HAVE CRITICIZED PLA OFFICERS FOR ACTING LIKE "BIG SHOTS AND MANDARINS" AND NOT TREATING THEIR MEN WITH PROPER RESPECT (RADIO KWANGTUNG JULY 24, RADIO KWANGSI JULY 23). CADRES OF THE KWANGSI MILITARY DISTRICT CLAIMED THAT SOME LEADING COMRADES STILL CHERISHED THE IDEA OF RANKS AND THAT OTHERS HAVE RUN AFTER A LIFE OF EASE AND HAVE BECOME "DEGENERATES." A PARTY BRANCH OF A CERTAIN COMPANY IN THE CANTON MILITARY REGION CITED THE NEGATIVE EXAMPLE OF A NEWLY-PROMOTED PLATOON LEADER WHO THOUGHT HIS STATUS HAD CHANGED UPON BECOMING A CADRE, STARTED ORDERING OTHERS AROUND AND DOING LESS HIMSELF, AND HANDLING PROBLEMS BY SUPPRESSION.

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2. COMMENT: CRITICISM OF THE MILITARY IN ANY FORM IS DE-

LICATE PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING PLA SENSITIVITY TO PLAYING THE
"HEAVY" FOR MUCH OF LAST YEAR'S POLITICAL MOVEMENT. HOWEVER,
ON THE ISSUE OF BOURGEOIS RIGHTS, A KEY ELEMENT OF THIS
YEAR'S DICTATORSHIP CAMPAIGN, THE MILITARY ONLY OCCASIONALLY
HAS BEEN RAPPED FOR INEQUALITIES WITHIN THE SYSTEM. (THE
INEQUALITY HAS BEEN VERIFIED BY TRAVELLERS IN CHINA WHO HAVE
COMMENTED ON THE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT THAT SENIOR PLA CADRES
RECEIVE ON BOARD TRAINS.) THE HARD-HITTING LANGUAGE IN THE
BROADCASTS CITED ABOVE MAKES THE ISSUE WORTH WATCHING TO SEE
IF THE DICTATORSHIP CAMPAIGN DEVELOPS A PLA-RELATED THEME
DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE SOME OF THE MILITARY'S PERQUISITES.
CROSS

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